

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

MEULMAN, Dirk G. and ZANDBERG, Pieter

Serial Number: not assigned Group Art Unit: not assigned

Filed: concurrently Examiner: not assigned

For: USE OF A 7 $\alpha$ -METHYL-17 $\alpha$ -ETHYNYL-ESTRANE DERIVATIVE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Corresponding to: PCT/EP98/01239, filed March 3, 1998

18A  
LB  
7/2/99

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 3, 1999

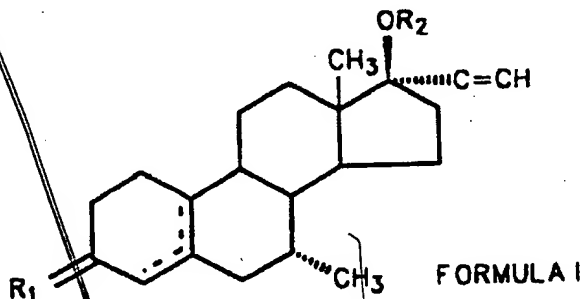
Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the fee in the above-identified application, please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A method of inhibiting the atherosclerotic process, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount [Use] of a 7 $\alpha$ -methyl-17 $\alpha$ -ethynyl-estrane derivative having the general formula I



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